

The Online Quiz

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The Online Quiz

The online quiz is a flexible tool with many potential uses, e.g. as a means of testing comprehension of virtual lectures; however, how do tutors know that students have watched them? The online quiz provides the answer. A simple series of questions testing comprehension of lecture content conducted online allows the tutor to know which students have watched the video lecture and how far they have understood it. But this throws up a further dilemma: why should students bother to do the quiz? And the answer is to make the quiz an assessed coursework element. So coursework marks, via the medium of the quiz, function to incentivise students to engage with lecture content.

Example, Module 250DEL: The Short Story Workshop, student engagement increased to in excess of 90% over the series of online lectures, a figure rarely matched in face-to-face lectures. So it is not the quizzes in themselves as coursework that is important, it is rather their role in ensuring engagement with lecture content that is. The most convenient way to run the quizzes for both students and tutors is for students

to do them at home, but this opens up the possibility of collusion or cheating. This potential can be minimised by restricting periods when the quiz is accessible, limiting the time students take to complete the quiz, randomising questions and randomising answers, all of which can be done in the system. Whilst this does not absolutely exclude the possibility of collusion, it makes it extremely difficult.

Students benefit by being able to view lectures from their bedrooms and on a macro-level the student population benefits by an increased level of engagement with course content. Tutors benefit by being able to deliver virtual content without worrying about student non-participation; but perhaps there is a benefit that tutors will appreciate to an even greater degree: once set up there is a potential for saving a great deal of time - online quizzes can be set up to provide automated grading and feedback, which means effectively the tutor has one less piece of coursework to mark.

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